

grey, and the latter has a large greyish-black patch surrounding the eye and ear-coverts, which is wanting in the former. The species has been well characterized by Mr. Whitehead in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' and it is therefore unnecessary for me to give any further description, especially as the type is so well represented in Mr. Keulemans's fine drawing.

Mr. Whitehead says the eyes in this species have double rings of crimson-red, a character which is also found in *C. poliocephala*. He goes on to say, "It was only these splendid Pigeons that kept me at an elevation of nearly 5000 feet in the wet season in Mindoro. They were most difficult to obtain, and in nearly four months I only secured five specimens."

50. *CARPOPHAGA CHALYBURA*, Bonap.; Grant, Ibis, 1896, p. 124.

Mr. Whitehead again met with Bonaparte's Fruit-Pigeon, and a male is included in the present collection.

51. *MACROPYGIA TENUIROSTRIS*, Gray; Grant, Ibis, 1895, p. 469.

The Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove was again found in the highlands and a male secured.

52. *CHALCOPHAPS INDICA* (Linn.); Grant, Ibis, 1895, p. 469.

The Indian Bronze-wing Dove, which is found all over the Philippine group, completes the list.

XLII.—*A few Notes on Birds of Egypt, from Observations made at Cairo in the months of January and February, 1896.* By E. CAVENDISH TAYLOR, M.A., F.Z.S.

I LEFT Marseilles for Alexandria by Messageries steamer on the 26th of December, 1895, and had good weather as far as the Straits of Messina. During this part of the voyage I saw a great number of Kittiwake Gulls (*Rissa tridactyla*), which used to fly close round the vessel, and were very tame,

but I do not think I saw any after passing the Straits of Messina. This species of Gull is, in the winter, abundant in the western part of the Mediterranean, but becomes rarer as you go eastward.

I arrived at Alexandria on December 31st, and stayed there till January 6th, 1896, when I went to Cairo, where, with the exception of four days in February, spent at Mena Hotel, at the Pyramids, I remained till nearly the end of February. On the 29th of that month I left Alexandria for Trieste and Venice. While at Cairo I visited the bird-market nearly every day. I enumerate below the rarer and more noteworthy species of which I saw specimens there. The chief ornithological event in my visit to Egypt was undoubtedly the obtaining near the Pyramids, and close to the Mena Hotel, that rare Chat, *Saxicola xanthopyrmyna*, as related at length in my notes. I again * visited the ostrich-farm at Matariyeh, and ascertained that the task of incubation is shared by the male and female ostriches.

SAXICOLA XANTHOPYRMNA (Hempr. et Ehr.). The Red-rumped Chat.

On the 17th of February last, during my stay at Mena Hotel, close to the Pyramids of Ghizeh, I took a morning stroll along the edge of the desert, at the base of the rocky plateau on which the Pyramids stand. About a third of a mile from the hotel, and close to the Bedaween village, I saw a Chat perched on a fragment of rock. On my near approach it took a short flight on to an old mud-wall, when I at once saw from its conspicuous red rump that it was nothing less than *Saxicola xanthopyrmyna*. I had no gun with me, and I knew no person at the hotel from whom I could borrow one. I was at a loss what to do, when an Arab passed near. I hailed him, and asked him if he had a gun. He said he had one at his house in the village. I told him to go and get it, and that I would give him three shillings if he would shoot for me that little bird, which he agreed to do, and went off to the village. For half-an-hour I watched

* For an account of a previous visit see *Ibis*, 1891, p. 474.

the Chat, which was surprisingly tame, and only took short flights between the rock and the mud-wall. At last the Arab came back with a companion, but without a gun. The second Arab said that his brother had a gun and that he would go and fetch him, so away went both Arabs, and for another half-hour did I watch the Chat. At length three Arabs came with a gun, the like of which I had never seen except in a museum. I showed the bird to the third Arab, who had the gun. He took deliberate aim, and the gun missed fire, but the Chat never moved. He tried again with the same result. I then suggested that he should change the cap, which he did. The gun then went off, but missed the bird, which only took its usual flight from the rock to the wall. The next shot was more successful, and the bird fell from the wall dead. I paid the three shillings and carried off my prize, which I found to be an adult with a black throat. I give these details to show the extraordinary and abnormal tameness of this rare bird. When I skinned my specimen, I searched long and carefully for the sexual organs, but was unable to discover any, owing to the parts being so much injured by shot. It is, however, presumably a male, from the black throat; indeed, it is exactly like the adult male figured in Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' pl. 31, except that the white of the underparts is less pure and more washed with rufous. The immature bird, figured on the same plate, is a specimen shot by me in Egypt, on the Nile, in March 1864, as recorded by me (*Ibis*, 1867, p. 60). In spite of this, Seebohm (*Cat. Brit. Mus.* vol. v. p. 382) makes the assertion that "the Red-rumped Chat appears to be confined to Nubia." He proceeds to say: "There is no example of this very rare Chat in the British Museum. The type (male of the year) is in the Berlin Museum, a second male of the year is in the collection of Mr. E. Cavendish Taylor, and an adult male is in the collection of Canon Tristram. No other examples are known."

The chief characteristic of this Chat is the bright rufous rump, which shows conspicuously in flight, and makes any mistake as to the species impossible. I am glad to have

added a fourth example to the three previously known to exist of *Saxicola xanthopyrna*.

BUBO ASCALAPHUS (Sav.). Egyptian Eagle-Owl.

I bought a fine specimen of this Owl in the Cairo market on January 11th.

VULTUR AURICULARIS. Sociable Vulture.

One example of this Vulture was seen in a small collection of birds made on the Nile in the month of January.

GYP S RUEPPELLI. Rüppell's Vulture.

There was a beautiful pair of these Vultures in the Cairo Zoological Gardens, which had been bought from an Arab at the Pyramids of Ghizeh, who said that he caught them about a day's journey away in the desert. They have since been acquired by the London Zoological Society, and are now in their Gardens in the Regent's Park. This species has never before been recorded from Egypt, and is new to the list of Egyptian birds*.

AQUILA CLANGA, Pall. Greater Spotted Eagle.

A very fine example of this Eagle, in the spotted plumage of the first year, was shot at Kubbeh, about three miles north of Cairo, on the 11th of January, and is now in my collection.

MILVUS ÆGYPTIUS (Gmelin). Egyptian Kite.

These Kites were more numerous than ever in and about Cairo, and the wonder is what they all find to eat, now that the town is kept tolerably clean, and dead carcasses are no longer allowed to lie about. I never could see them eating anything, their time being chiefly devoted to love-making and nest-building, for which latter purpose I have seen them carry sticks both in beak and claws. I never tired of watching their aerial flirtations and perpetual squabbles with the Crows (*Corvus cornix*), whose approach to their nest was always resented. In one tree in the Esbekiyeh garden this year there were two Kites' nests and one Crows' nest.

* See also Selater, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 400, and 1896, p. 609.

NYCTICORAX GRISEUS (Linn.). Night-Heron.

There was a large colony of these birds in a thick clump of trees on an island in the Zoological Gardens at Cairo. Late one afternoon, when the Night-Herons were beginning to leave the clump, I saw a large Falcon, probably a Lanner, make several stoops at one of them. The Heron uttered a loud croak at each stoop, and always managed to dodge the Falcon, which did not seem to be much in earnest.

ANAS ANGUSTIROSTRIS (Ménétr.). Marbled Duck.

I saw four or five of these Ducks in the Cairo market on Feb. 24th.

PORPHYRIO SMARAGDONOTUS (Temm.). Green-backed Porphyrio.

One in Cairo market on Feb. 9th.

OTIS TETRAX (Linn.). Little Bustard.

One example in Cairo market on Feb. 12th. This is a rare bird in Egypt, and neither Capt. Shelley nor Mr. J. H. Gurney appears to have seen it.

CHETTUSIA LEUCURA (Licht.). White-tailed Plover.

These Plovers were unusually abundant in the Cairo market this year. I never in my life saw one with a brown bar on the tail, as figured in Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' pl. 529. Eye very large; iris red.

ÆGIALITIS PECUARIA (Temm.). Kittlitz's Plover.

Frequently seen in the Cairo market.

SQUATAROLA HELVETICA (Linn.). Grey Plover.

This is a rare bird in Egypt. I saw one example in the Cairo market on Jan. 10th.

LIMOSA LAPPONICA (Linn.). Bar-tailed Godwit.

I saw several of these Godwits in the Cairo market on Feb. 5th. Neither Capt. Shelley nor Mr. J. H. Gurney, jun., includes this species, and it is, I believe, new to the list of Egyptian birds.

NUMENIUS TENUIROSTRIS (Vicill.). Slender-billed Curlew.
Seen in Cairo market on Jan. 22nd. Rather a rare species
in Egypt.

RHYNCHÆA CAPENSIS (Linn.). Painted Snipe.

Unusually abundant this winter in the market both at
Cairo and Alexandria.

XLIII.—*Notes on some Birds from the higher mountains of Nyika, west of Lake Nyasa, British Central Africa, with a description of a new Species of Francolin (Francolinus crawshayi).* By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT. *With Field-Notes by* RICHARD CRAWSHAY.

(Plate XII.)

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. Richard Crawshay, who has recently returned to England from British Central Africa, the National Collection has recently received several rare and interesting birds from the highlands of Nyika, which lie to the west of Lake Nyasa. Among the specimens brought home is a Francolin which is certainly undescribed, and I therefore propose to name it, in honour of its discoverer,

FRANCOLINUS CRAWSHAYI, sp. n. (Plate XII.)

This Francolin, at present only known from a male, is most nearly allied to *F. levaillanti*, and must be placed along with that species in the section of the key which reads: "e⁶. Black and white superciliary stripes meet at the back of the head, and are confluent on the nape." [Cf. Grant, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxii. p. 129 (1893).] This character alone is sufficient to separate the present species from *F. gariepensis* and other nearly allied forms, and up to the present time *F. levaillanti* has occupied a somewhat isolated position, the section of the key quoted above serving to distinguish it from all other members of the genus. *F. crawshayi* may be at once recognized by the following characters:—The lower pair of bands on the sides of the face, commencing just above the angle of the gape, are mostly pure white, though some of